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Message Text

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15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /060 W
---------- 034596
R 191623Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 161
INFOR AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2550

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR
SUBJECT: 25TH CONGRESS: LEADERSHIP RUMORS AND TIDBITS

REF: MOSCOW 2051

1. THE MOSCOW RUMOR MILL IS BEGINNING TO OPERATE AT HIGH SPEED AS ATTENTION BEGINS TO FOCUS ON THE OPENING OF THE 25TH CONGRESS NEXT TUESDAY. WHILE THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME RUMOR ABOUT VIRTUALLY EVERY MEMBER OF THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP, THE FOLLOWING ARE NOTEWORTHY:

--THE BRITISH EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD BY A REASONABLY WELL PLACED SOVIET SOURCE THAT KAPITONOV WILL FILL SHELEPIN'S VACANCY AS HEAD OF THE TRADE UNIONS AND WILL BE PROMOTED TO CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER; OF THE PRESENT POLITBURO MEMBERS ONLY PEL-SHE WILL BE RETIRED (BECAUSE OF AGE); AND ROMANOV WILL BE PROMOTED TO FULL POLITBURO MEMBERSHIP;

--SEVERAL U.S. NEWSMEN HAVE PICKED UP RUMORS THAT DEMICHEV AND POLYANSKIY WILL BE DEMOTED AT THE CONGRESS; PEL-SHE WILL RETIRE; AND SCHCHERBITSKIY, ROMANOV AND DOLGIKH WILL BE PROMOTED;

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--WESTERN NEWSMEN HAVE HEARD SPECULATION FROM

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LOW-LEVEL SOVIET SOURCES THAT BREZHNEV AND HIS SUPPORTERS HAVE MAJOR LEADERSHIP CHANGES IN THE WORKS BUT WILL WAIT UNTIL A CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM IN THE SPRING TO PUT THEM INTO EFFECT.

2. THE BRITISH HAVE HEARD FROM THEIR SOURCE MENTIONED ABOVE THAT FORMER MOSCOW GORKOM BUREAU SECRETARY (FOR IDEOLOGY) YAGODKIN WAS DEMOTED PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF A LONGSTANDING PERSONALITY CLASH WITH MOSCOW GORKOM SECOND SECRETARY L.I. GREKOV (SEE MOSCOW 2051). ACCORDING TO THIS ACCOUNT, YAGODKIN LONG ENJOYED THE PROTECTION OF GORKOM FIRST SECRETARY (AND CPSU POLITBURO MEMBER) GRISHIN, BUT GRISHIN'S PROTECTION WAS FOR UNEXPLAINED REASONS RECENTLY WITHDRAWN
STOESSEL

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